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TERRA 2017 – Terraced Landscapes of the Lower Engadine

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Abstract: Archaeological and environmental investigations in the terraced landscapes of the Lower Engadine started already late in the 20th century with the pioneering works of Heinrich Zoller and Angelika Raba. More recently, an interdisciplinary network supported by the Archaeological Heritage Service of Grisons (ADG) and consisting of archaeological computing scientists (Karsten Lambers, University of Leiden), geomorphologists (Bertil Mächtle, University of Heidelberg), survey and soil specialists (Katja Kothieringer, Till Sonnemann, University of Bamberg), environmentalists (Angelika Abderhalden Raba, ARINAS, Sasha Kosanic, University of Konstanz) and archaeologists from UZH has relaunched fieldwork in this thrilling landscape.

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TERRA 2017 – Terraced Landscapes of the Lower Engadine

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Archaeological and environmental investigations in the terraced landscapes of the Lower Engadine started already late in the 20th century with the pioneering works of Heinrich Zoller and Angelika Raba.

More recently, an interdisciplinary network supported by the Archaeological Heritage Service of Grisons (ADG) and consisting of archaeological computing scientists (Karsten Lambers, University of Leiden), geomorphologists (Bertil Mächtle, University of Heidelberg), survey and soil specialists (Katja Kothieringer, Till Sonnemann, University of Bamberg), environmentalists (Angelika Abderhalden Raba, ARINAS, Sasha Kosanic, University of Konstanz) and archaeologists from UZH has relaunched fieldwork in this thrilling landscape.

The 2017 season was run as a field practice module with participation of students of the named universities. Methods of terrain survey, excavation, 3D mapping, geophysical prospection, soil analysis, chronometric dating and GIS-based modeling were trained, in order to address the overall research questions of the project: the temporal and spatial evolution of agricultural terracing and irrigation around Ramosch GR from the late Neo-



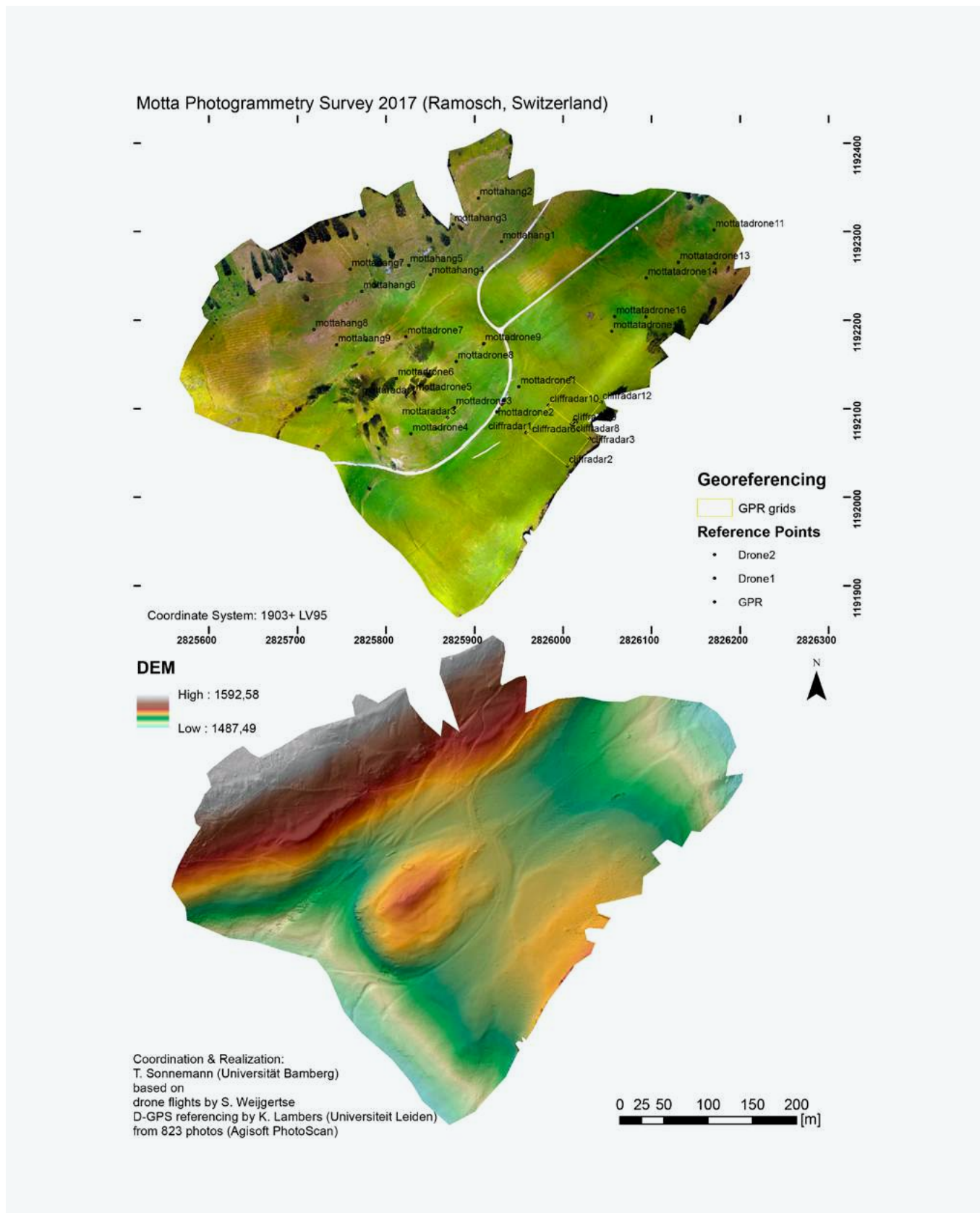
1 Former «Maiensäss» of Chant Dadaint GR, relict of traditional Alpine economy (Universität Zürich).



2 Recreated traditional irrigation channel above Ramosch GR (Universität Zürich).

lithic onwards, their specific uses and changes in time (including oral history), and their relationship to known prehistoric (Ramosch-Mottata and Motta) and historic settlements in the valley.

TERRA is a case study for the significance and archaeological potential of combined environmental, landscape and historical approaches to ancient agricultural terracing and irrigation systems that exist in many regions of the Alps.



3 DTM/DEM of Ramosch-Motta GR (Universität Bamberg).